

Although claim 1 and certain other claims were amended in Applicants' first response, these claims were revised only to include features already present in original dependent claims. The new ground of rejection was therefore not necessitated by Applicants' amendment and rendered finality improper. However, in the interest of progressing the applications to allowance as quickly as possible, Applicants have elected not to contest finality.

VIII. Conclusion

This is a complete response to the referenced Official Action. In conclusion, Applicants submit that, in light of the foregoing remarks and enclosed declaration, the present case is in condition for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested. Should Examiner Haghighatian have any questions or comments, or identify any informalities, a telephone call to the undersigned Applicants' representative is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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